GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1561
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
VIOLATION OF NORMS IN GRANTING BROADCASTING RIGHTS
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Prasar Bharati has given broadcasting rights for the serial `AkhirKaun` to M/s United Television in violation of prescribed norms;

(b) If so, whether this decision has resulted in loss of approximately rupees one crore to Prasar Bharati;

(c) If so, whether Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report for the year, 2002 had raised certain objections to it; and

(d) If so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Government against the officers found guilty?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d):The Audit in C&AG Paragraph No. 5.6 of Report No. 4 of 2003 (Civil) has pointed out that Doordarshan gave undue benefit to the sponsor of the commissioned programme `Akhir Kaun` by granting benefit in terms of higher Free Commercial Time (FCT) and lower Spot Buy Rate (SBR).

The C&AG Para is under examination in consultation with Prasar Bharati.